

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

By the foregoing amendment, claim 1 has been amended, and new claim 9 has been filed. This amendment is supported throughout the specification, and no new matter has been added. Thus, claims 1-9 are currently pending in the application and are subject to examination.

In the Office Action mailed September 10, 2004, the Examiner made the following rejections and statements; the Examiner: (i) rejected claims 1 and 3-8 under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by Bohn et al., US 6,595,549; and (ii) rejected claim 2 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being obvious in view of Bohn et al.

Rejection of claims 1 and 3-8 under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by Bohn et al.

The Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection as Bohn et al. does not disclose or suggest that the distal ends of the left and right half airbags are unconnected and separated to form a space therebetween facing the occupant when the airbag is inflated, as recited by the amended claims. Support for this amendment may be found throughout the specification, such as at paragraph 18 and Figs. 1(a) and 1(b). In contrast, the gas bag 3 of Bohn et al. is "constructed in a ring shape,"¹ rather than having the left and right half airbags. Further, the gas bag 3 of Bohn et al. has a depression 17 in the middle of the ring shape, but a closing means 36 is used to hold the opposing sections 34 of the gas bag 3 to close the opening 18 to this depression 17 along the front wall 11 facing the occupant when the gas bag 3 is inflated.² As such, the Bohn et al. patent teaches away from unconnected and separated distal ends of left and right half airbags, as recited by the claims. Thus, based on the above discussion, the Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of claims 1 and 3-8 under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by Bohn et al.

Rejection of claim 2 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being obvious in view of Bohn et al.

The Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection as Bohn et al. does not disclose or suggest that the distal ends of the left and right half airbags are unconnected and separated to form a space therebetween facing the occupant when the airbag is inflated, as recited by this claim. As discussed

¹ US 6,595,549 to Bohn et al., col. 2, lines 37-38.

² *Id.* at col. 2, line 64 to col. 3, line 8; and Fig. 1.

directly above, the Bohn et al. patent does not disclose or suggest such a structure. Furthermore, as discussed above, the Bohn et al. patent teaches away from such a structure. Thus, the recited structure is not obvious in view of Bohn et al. Therefore, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection of claim 2 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being obvious in view of Bohn et al.

One month extension of time is hereby requested. A credit card authorization form in the amount of \$120.00 is attached herewith for the one month extension of time.

Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 11-0219 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

**HAUPTMAN KANESAKA BERNER
PATENT AGENTS, LLP**



Manabu Kanesaka
Registration No. 31,467

1700 Diagonal Road, Suite 310
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
Phone: (703) 519-9785